(c) if so, by when the decision about short route and to increase the number of Pilgrims will be effective; and

(d) if not, the details of the obstruction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra along the traditional route across Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh District of Uttaranchal is coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs and conducted with the assistance of various Central and State Government agencies.

Government of India proposed to the Chinese side on several occasions alternate route to Kailash Mansarovar through Demchok in Jammu and Kashmir and Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh. The Chinese side had conveyed that it would not be feasible to open an alternate route through Demchok or Shipki La on account of poor road conditions, frequent land slides, high altitudes and lack of infrastructure in that uninhabited remote region of Tibet.

Government receives suggestions from time to time from different quarters from improving facilities for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Suggestions for improvement on the Chinese side are discussed with the latter and include improvements in medical, transportation, accommodation and cooking facilities. During consultations in August 2002, the Chinese side agreed to increase the maximum number of yatris per year to 704 from 560 previously.

During Prime Minister's visit to China in June, 2003, the issue of upgradation of facilities and additional routes for the Yatra was discussed with the Chinese side. The Chinese side conveyed that they would consider the request according to conditions in Tibet.

Doctoring of balance sheets by IA and AAI

*30. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has observed that the Indian Airlines and Airports Authority of India are doctoring their balance sheets for the year 2001-02;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to reflect true picture of these PSUs in balance sheets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) No anomalies were pointed out by CAG in the balance sheet of Indian Airlines for the year 2001-02. In fact, CAG has given a 'NIL REPORT' for the year 2001-02 which has been published on page No. 47 of the Annual Report of Indian Airlines Limited. They have made some observations in the accounts of Airports Authority of India for 2001-02, which pertains to understatement/ overstatement of certain provisions in the accounts and non-compliance with some procedural requirements. Necessary remedial action on these observations has been taken by AAI.

However, in a separate report on the accounts of PSUs in general (CAG's Report No. 2 of 2003) CAG has observed some overstatements and understatements in respect of both Indian Airlines Limited and Airports Authority of India. This report was received in May, 2003. These observations relate to the year 2000-01 and not to 2001-02. Replies will be sent to CAG.

Construction of Heritage Corridor Project near Taj Mahal, Agra

*31. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have asked the U.P. Government to undo the damage caused near the Taj Mahal due to the work on the Heritage Corridor Project;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry is being conducted by the State Government on this issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such construction violates the statutory limit of 300 metres; and